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SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 21st MEETING

Chairman:	Mr. CISSÉ	(Senegal)
later:	Mr. BIGGAR (Vice-Chairman)	(Ireland)
later:	Mr. CISSÉ (Chairman)	(Senegal)

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The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 98: INTERNATIONAL DRUG CONTROL (continued) (A/49/89, A/49/139-E/1994/57, A/49/228-S/1994/827, A/49/287-S/1994/894 and Corr.1, A/49/317, A/49/345, A/49/369, A/49/42, A/49/532)

1. Mr. MOTSYK (Ukraine) expressed concern about the strengthening of the positions of drug cartels, along with organized crime, terrorism, the illicit arms trade and money laundering. There had also been an increase in drug trafficking and drug abuse in countries with economies in transition as the traditional trafficking routes changed. His delegation felt that in view of the aggravation of the problem, increasingly close cooperation was needed in the fight against drug trafficking, above all through the United Nations and its specialized bodies, particularly since States which were experiencing economic difficulties could not eradicate drug addiction on their own.

2. His delegation believed that the international conferences and instruments in the fight against drugs had contributed to the formulation of a general policy against that social evil. There was a need to take advantage of the exceptional capacity of the United Nations as a centre for the coordination of international action; it was to be hoped that the restructuring of the Organization and, in particular, the activities of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) would contribute to the fight against drugs. His delegation fully supported the efforts of UNDCP to ensure that all States acceded to the international instruments on drugs and psychotropic substances, complied strictly with their provisions, and harmonized their legislation with those instruments. In that respect, his delegation shared the concern of the International Narcotics Control Board that, despite the increase in the number of countries which had acceded to the 1988 Convention, very few countries had established precursor control mechanisms in accordance with article 12 of the Convention.

3. Ukraine greatly appreciated the work of UNDCP and supported its approach of assigning the same importance to the reduction of the demand for and supply of drugs as to the fight against drug trafficking. The preventive work carried out by UNDCP in the countries with economies in transition should be noted, since the links of local drug traffickers with international networks would impede the inter-State struggle against drugs and could bring to naught the progress made in recent years. Relations between UNDCP and Ukrainian State bodies were satisfactory and constructive. Because of the increase in drug trafficking and drug use in the region, Ukraine welcomed the signing of a technical assistance programme with UNDCP.

4. His delegation stressed the importance of the establishment of the working group on maritime cooperation, of which it was a member; it hoped that the group would formulate a set of principles and concrete recommendations to ensure strict compliance with article 17 of the 1988 Convention. His delegation also felt that it was important to improve coordination and develop cooperation

between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat.

5. Because of its geographical situation and the existence of a stable domestic market, Ukraine was used as a transit State. His Government was taking the strongest possible measures to resolve that problem, and to that end had adopted a national programme and established a national council to coordinate the fight against drug abuse. His Government was prepared to continue to develop bilateral, regional and international cooperation with the United Nations in the struggle against drug trafficking.

6. Mr. PERERA (Sri Lanka) said that Sri Lanka was a party to the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 as amended by the 1972 Protocol, the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. Sri Lanka fully supported the work of UNDCP in promoting accession to those conventions, providing legal assistance to States in the formulation of implementing legislation, and organizing legal workshops to facilitate the implementation of the conventions and domestic legislation. It was imperative that UNDCP receive the financial support necessary for it to discharge its functions and expand and strengthen its technical cooperation programmes. His delegation therefore supported the initiative of establishing a dialogue with multilateral development banks so that a drug control dimension could be included in the lending and programming activities carried out in interested and affected countries.

7. In 1993, a regional legal workshop had been held in Sri Lanka with the assistance of UNDCP and the Colombo Plan. In August 1994, the National Dangerous Drugs Control Board of Sri Lanka had arranged for the visit of a UNDCP expert to discuss and develop a comprehensive law on drug abuse and drug trafficking which would be submitted to Parliament shortly for approval; the proposed law included provisions on money laundering, confiscation of proceeds from drug trafficking, controlled delivery and the provision of mutual legal assistance. The Board was coordinating the work of the government agencies concerned, provincial councils and non-governmental organizations. Furthermore, in consultation with the relevant agencies and with the assistance of UNDCP, it had formulated a master plan for drug abuse control with the aim of securing a steady reduction in drug-related problems in Sri Lanka. The Board was also maintaining a programme of treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of drug addicts, in close cooperation with non-governmental organizations. A draft law for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug offenders was also under consideration.

8. Sri Lanka had initiated action within the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) to formulate a regional convention against drug abuse and drug trafficking, which was now in force. As a follow-up, a regional drug offences monitoring desk for the collation and dissemination of information on drug offences within the region had also been established. A directory of national focal points of law enforcement agencies in SAARC countries had been finalized. In September, a meeting of those agencies had been convened in

Colombo with a view to enhancing the effectiveness of their cooperation, particularly in the exchange of information. It was expected that on the basis of that cooperation, it would be possible to establish a database at the regional level. His delegation welcomed the establishment of the working group on maritime cooperation in the context of the relevant provisions of the 1988 convention.

9. Ms. ZACHARIAH (Malaysia) said that the strategy for combating drug abuse and illicit trafficking must be constantly re-evaluated and improved. It remained for States to ensure the effective implementation of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control and the Global Programme of Action. Malaysia's experience in implementing that Plan and Programme had demonstrated the need for their adaptation and adjustment. Her delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs that the Executive Director of the UNDCP should analyse ways of strengthening system-wide cooperation and coordination in order to maximize the impact of drug control activities.

10. Malaysia supported the approach envisaged in the Global Programme of Action and believed that demand reduction was a significant aspect of the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. In order to ensure the success of national programmes against drug abuse, Governments should adopt strategies involving government agencies, non-governmental and voluntary organizations and the private sector. Public information campaigns with particular emphasis on young people should be foremost in the demand reduction strategy. UNDCP should be prepared to assist countries which required information and expert advice on how such a strategy could be formulated. Along with reducing demand, the number of drug abusers must be reduced through treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration. While many believed that treatment should be voluntary, it might well be necessary to resort to involuntary treatment and rehabilitation. The detention of drug abusers would be in their own interest, since treatment and rehabilitation programmes could include spiritual counselling, self-discipline and job training.

11. Interdiction should not be regarded as the sole strategy for the control of supply. The eradication of illicit drug production also required international cooperation. The link between poverty and the cultivation of opiates could not be ignored. Peasants who were at the mercy of drug lords could not be offered the simplistic solution of crop substitution, because in addition to development, they needed protection. In that connection, the "debt-for-drugs" swap proposed by UNDCP seemed interesting. The Malaysian delegation encouraged UNDCP to pursue a dialogue on that subject with the international financial institutions.

12. Malaysia found it regrettable that, as noted in document A/49/317, only 101 countries had so far become parties to the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and that the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961 and the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971 had yet to achieve universal acceptance. Nevertheless, all efforts should be made to ensure that more countries became

parties to those instruments, whose implementation should be monitored. Her delegation supported the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the enhancement of the role of the International Narcotics Control Board in persuading Governments to adopt the measures provided for in those instruments and to produce a detailed assessment of the policies which they pursued in combating the drug menace. The dissemination of information to encourage countries to become parties to the Conventions was also important.

13. The Malaysian delegation welcomed the initiative taken by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in establishing a working group on maritime cooperation and convening its first session. However, in view of the importance of the question for South-East Asia, it was regrettable that not a single country in the region had been invited to participate in that working group. Her delegation endorsed the recommendation of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs concerning the harmonization of legislation, particularly in the area of money-laundering. With regard to the link between organized crime and illicit drug trafficking, the Commission should pursue specific areas for cooperation with the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the United Nations Secretariat. The effectiveness of drug control efforts would ultimately depend on the availability of resources. The UNDCP budget was in deficit; that might paralyse its activities. At the same time, UNDCP had been requested to take on new tasks that would require more funds. Malaysia believed that the Commission on Narcotic Drugs should look into the matter and suggest ways of applying innovative approaches to assist UNDCP.

14. Mr. YADAVA (Nepal) welcomed the favourable response from the international community to the fight against drugs and noted that the United Nations Department of Public Information had played a vital role in disseminating information relating to drug control. Drug control activities should not be confined to government ministries and organizations, but should be extended to community-based non-governmental organizations. Preventive education programmes should be targeted to students, teachers and parents and, in particular, to vulnerable and high-risk groups, such as street children, unemployed youth and other disadvantaged groups in society. He also welcomed the World Forum on the Role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in Bangkok in December 1994 with the assistance of UNDCP in connection with the United Nations Decade against Drug Abuse. Nepal supported the recommendation of the Intergovernmental Expert Group (A/C.3/45/8) that a comprehensive, unified information system should be developed which would include reliable data on the illicit drug trafficking chain. His delegation also expressed appreciation to UNDCP for its role in the development of a paper on the relationship between drug abuse and underdevelopment and the preparation of a multi-agency evaluation of the socio-economic impact of drug abuse and control.

15. With regard to the work of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the International Drug Control Board in the implementation of the Global Programme of Action, it was encouraging to note that treatment and rehabilitation programmes received priority in the Asian and Pacific region. The signing of a memorandum of understanding at the subregional level in South-East Asia and the efforts made by some countries of South-West Asia to cooperate in the fight

against drug trafficking through the signing of a similar memorandum were also a source of satisfaction. All the regional agencies concerned should identify areas for cooperation in the coordination of law enforcement interdiction efforts, the establishment of regional intelligence information services and the development of a standard mechanism for the collection, analysis, dissemination and sharing of data related to drug abuse and illicit trafficking.

16. In Nepal a master plan had been formulated in cooperation with UNDCP which had reached the third phase of implementation. Despite financial and other limitations, activities had focused on the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers. Emphasis had also been given to preventive measures, such as education, and mass media campaigns aimed at creating awareness among the public at large. In addition, a nationwide network was being set up to mobilize community-based non-governmental organizations, and an active campaign against drug trafficking and production had been initiated. The Government of Nepal had also strengthened the judicial and legal system. At the regional level, Nepal was cooperating with other members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in promoting drug control activities. The Association had implemented a number of programmes in which policy makers, law-enforcement agencies and professionals in the field of demand reduction had participated. A SAARC Regional Convention on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances had now been concluded with a view to coordinating efforts to control drug abuse, trafficking and production.

17. Mr. SLABY (Czech Republic) highlighted specific problems, including drug addiction, which resulted from the rapid development of society, migration, tourism and changes in the legal system. At the beginning of 1993 his country had established an Inter-Ministerial Drug Control Commission which had worked out a concept and programme for anti-drug policy; that document evaluated the problem of drug abuse at the national level, set forth principles of government policy and analysed legislative needs and proposals. Measures had recently been taken to increase the effectiveness of the Commission; its statute had been modified to bring it into line with the statutes of other European countries and with the recommendations of UNDCP, thus enhancing its operational character. The Commission was headed by the Minister of the Interior and its members included eight other ministers directly concerned with drug addiction (the Ministers of Labour and Social Affairs, Health, Foreign Affairs, Defence, Education, Youth and Sport, Industry and Commerce and Justice and Finance). The Commission had also become the relevant partner at the bilateral and multilateral levels.

18. The Czech Republic was not only a transit country on the Balkan route, but was becoming a destination country and, to some extent, a producer country. Drug-related crime was reaching European levels in spite of measures taken at the national level. It was therefore essential for the Czech Republic to be fully involved in international cooperation to combat drug abuse. He welcomed the Global Programme of Action adopted by the General Assembly at its seventeenth special session and the recently updated System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control as the basis for international cooperation in that field. The Czech Republic was a State party to all the international conventions on drug control, and had prepared a series of legislative measures to strengthen

the guarantees that all relevant provisions would be observed. Further, in terms of international institutions, it was a member of the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and maintained valuable contacts with the International Narcotics Control Board. Regarding cooperation with UNDCP, there were two current projects involving UNDCP assistance, one for police and customs authorities and one relating to laboratories.

19. He drew attention to cooperation on legislation and to the activities of the Czech Inspectorate on the control of legally produced narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. On the basis of United Nations assistance in that field and consultations with relevant experts, work had been continuing to bring Czech legislation into line with international treaties and the legal norms of the European Union. The Czech Republic appreciated the cooperation between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch. Representatives of the Branch had presented its programme at a session of the Czech Government's Crime Prevention Commission, at which agreement had been reached on possible future cooperation. There was a dangerous link between the illicit drug trade and transnational organized crime, and his delegation therefore supported strengthening the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and upgrading it to a Division.

20. Ms. HORIUCHI (Japan) drew attention to the importance of international cooperation in the fight against drugs, including legal enforcement and other measures to reduce supply and demand. In that regard, she welcomed the Secretary-General's report on the implementation of the Global Programme of Action (A/49/345). Drug control legislation provided a firm foundation for coordinated efforts in that field, and she therefore urged States that were not parties to the relevant international instruments to ratify and accede to them. She also encouraged States parties to adopt legislative, administrative and judicial measures to bring their domestic legal systems into line with those instruments. UNDCP had developed a package of model laws which could be used as guidelines in the creation of such a legal framework. Drug control legislation, especially in the area of money laundering, facilitated cooperation among nations and monitoring of the implementation of drug control treaties by the International Narcotics Control Board.

21. Japan attached great importance to the treatment, rehabilitation and social reintegration of drug abusers, and to preventive activities at both national and international levels. Governments should therefore enhance their collaboration with non-governmental organizations. In Japan the Drug Abuse Prevention Centre, a Japanese non-governmental organization, had launched and sponsored a successful educational and public information campaign. Similarly, a fund-raising campaign conducted jointly by the Government and non-governmental organizations in 1993 had raised $420,000 for a UNDCP project to support activities of non-governmental organizations aimed at preventing drug abuse in developing countries.

22. Regarding control of the supply of narcotics and psychotropic substances, she said that greater attention should be paid to the links between drug control and alternative development schemes. Member States should give their full

support to UNDCP initiatives, since UNDCP, operating on a limited budget, could not be the sole force behind such multidimensional projects. Other international organizations should cooperate in such schemes and should incorporate the fight against drugs into their programming cycle. It was also necessary to strengthen the process of consultation and coordination between UNDCP and its main partners within the system, and to encourage contacts between UNDCP and international financial institutions. UNDCP should extend its expertise, currently limited to the control of heroin and cocaine, to include the control of stimulants among its activities.

23. Regional and subregional strategies were essential to successful drug control. Japan welcomed the decision of the Lao People's Democratic Republic to accede to the Memorandum of Understanding signed by Myanmar, Thailand and China, and would continue to support UNDCP activities in that area, particularly those of the Bangkok Regional Centre. Lastly, she was concerned at the financial state of UNDCP at a time when it should improve its efficiency. In order to raise programme delivery in 1994 and 1995, contributions would need to be increased. To that end, UNDCP should continue to adopt effective fund-raising methods such as special appeals from the Secretary-General describing the resources the United Nations agencies needed to implement regional and international drug control measures.

24. Mr. SANTAPUTRA (Thailand) said that Thailand had long been working to eradicate illicit drug production and trafficking and drug addiction. While heroin continued to be the main drug of abuse, the use of amphetamines and volatile substances was currently growing. Thailand was a party to the 1961 Convention and the 1972 Protocol and to the 1971 Convention. While it had not yet acceded to the 1988 Convention, it had already implemented many of the measures contained in the Convention, for example by adopting the Act regarding measures for the suppression of crimes relating to narcotics. The drugs problem was mainly a problem of trafficking, distribution and consumption. Without demand and trade, the supply would disappear. In order to eradicate the scourge completely, the reduction and elimination of all aspects of production, trafficking and consumption must be addressed - and that must happen, given the transnational nature of the phenomenon, at the national, subregional, regional and global levels. Mutual assistance and cooperation in that respect must, therefore, be transboundary in order to be effective.

25. At the national level, his Government had adopted a strategy for the reduction of supply and demand focusing both on suppression and on prevention. The opium poppy cultivation area had successfully been reduced. Figures for the 1993/94 season showed a 50 per cent reduction from the previous year, and the cultivation area had consequently been reduced to 1,800 hectares. The Master Plan on Community and Environment Development and Narcotic Crops Control in the Highland (1992-1996) aimed partly to encourage the highland communities to stop growing opium poppies. Since its enactment, his Government had applied the law regarding the suppression of narcotics offences in six cases against 16 offenders accused of conspiracy. The authorities had inspected and temporarily frozen the assets of those involved, valued at $4 million. In 1993 approximately 100,000 offenders involved in 101,400 drugs cases had been

arrested. About 2,500 kilograms of heroin had been seized and two major heroin refineries destroyed. With regard to the issue of money laundering, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board was drafting regulations jointly with a number of government agencies to suppress activities for laundering the proceeds of the illegal drug trade.

26. Prevention was one aspect of the national strategy for reducing demand. The aim was to help those who had not yet become victims of drug abuse to recognize that it was possible to live a healthy life without resorting to drugs. The key to prevention was a happy and harmonious family life. Preventive education had been provided, and emphasis had been placed on environment and community institutions in order to promote a drug-free atmosphere. The media had cooperated with the authorities in the dissemination of pertinent information. The Government had established a national subcommittee on drug prevention to coordinate the plans and activities of various agencies. The cooperation of all sectors of society had been mobilized. Non-governmental organizations, the private sector and community organizations were cooperating in prevention programmes. Starting in 1992, the Office of the Narcotics Control Board had launched a five-year project in collaboration with the Kodak company (Thailand) aimed at creating public awareness of the danger of drugs. That was the first long-term project implemented jointly by the private sector and the Government. Given the importance of the interaction among all sectors in addressing the problem, the Government was supporting the National Council on Social Welfare, a non-governmental organization in Thailand, in its preparations for the World Forum on the role of Non-Governmental Organizations in Drug Demand Reduction, to be held in Bangkok.

27. Subregional and regional cooperation was vital in solving the drug problem. Thailand had been working closely with the members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) in that area. It was also cooperating with other countries in the subregion, being convinced that one country alone could never overcome the problem. In 1992, Thailand had initiated a meeting at the ministerial level with the Governments of the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. It had also actively participated in a subregional project of the United Nations International Drug Control Programme (UNDCP) involving Myanmar and Thailand in October 1993. In February 1994, it had taken part in the second Ministerial Conference on Cooperation and Drug Abuse Control Strategy, together with the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar. The joint declaration which had resulted from the Conference reaffirmed the commitment of the three countries in that area. In New York, Thailand had signed the Memorandum of Understanding with the Governments of China, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar and UNDCP, which had led to the first Subregional Senior Officials Meeting on Drug Control Strategy, held in June 1994. At that meeting, a subregional action plan on drugs had been adopted. It had been further agreed that cooperation should be expanded to include Viet Nam and Cambodia, thus bringing together all the Mekong riparian States.

28. Cooperative efforts with the countries of the subregion and UNDCP had focused on suppression and prevention. Efforts had been directed at eliminating opium poppy cultivation and illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs and

psychotropic substances in the subregion. Cooperation had been strengthened by the setting up of information systems and training in prevention and treatment. Technical cooperation and coordination had been promoted and expanded by means of seminars, training and study visits. National and regional plans had incorporated methods for reducing the added risk of AIDS caused by intravenous drug use.

29. At the global level, international organizations, particularly the specialized agencies of the United Nations, could play an important role in combating drugs. Thailand had always been actively involved in the work of UNDCP, and believed that it should act as coordinator of drug issues in the United Nations system. The Global Programme of Action outlined integrated strategies for drug abuse control. To achieve the objectives of the Programme, the international community, in particular the developing countries, must cooperate closely with UNDCP and the specialized agencies of the United Nations in order to obtain the technical and financial assistance necessary to the development and implementation of national and regional strategies. He appealed to countries with greater resources to contribute generously towards the work of UNDCP.

30. Mr. FERNANDEZ (Cuba) said that combating drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking was one of the most serious problems currently facing the international community. The phenomenon had transnational dimensions that called for an effective and well-coordinated international response, particularly within the United Nations system, since there was a wide discrepancy between the magnitude of the problem and the collective capacity of the system to deal with it. The resolution on international action to combat drug abuse and illicit production and trafficking established the general framework for much more effective international action. Such action must be carried out with absolute respect for the sovereignty of States, the norms and principles of international law and, in particular, the principle of non-intervention and of refraining from the threat or use of force in international relations.

31. Greater efforts must be expended on preventing consumption, the motive force of drug production and trafficking, if progress was to be made over the long term. Given its geographical location, Cuba had been affected by the consequences of international drug trafficking, and, despite the economic difficulties the country was currently experiencing, it had spared no effort to combat it. The National Anti-Drug Commission was the key agency in the fight against drugs. The Commission performed three basic functions: to prevent the national territory and surrounding areas from being used for trafficking in narcotics; to protect society from the introduction of drugs; and to cooperate at the international level in that area. It should be noted that in 1993 some 3,364 kilograms of cocaine had been seized in a total of 79 drug-related incidents, an increase of 104 per cent over 1992. The confiscated drugs had been burned in accordance with international procedures.

32. While drug consumption was not a social problem in Cuba, control measures were being carried out to prevent abuse, the system for the control of

psychotropic drugs was being strengthened, and national legislation was being updated to deal with the phenomenon more effectively. Cuba continued to participate in the negotiation and signing of bilateral agreements at the regional level and above. It had always regarded the common interest and mutual respect as fundamentals which were essential if agreements were to be reached with all countries throughout the world. Cuba firmly believed in the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation in that area and hoped that it would continue to give priority attention to the issue.

33. Mr. SHESTAKOV (Russian Federation) said that political instability, armed conflicts, a difficult social and political situation throughout the world, and the inability of countries to maintain public order were undermining drug control efforts. Legal loopholes in that area were further aggravating the situation; for example, the conversion of the financial and banking systems of the former socialist countries created ever greater opportunities for money-laundering. The States of Central and Eastern Europe and the Russian Federation had become an avenue for illicit trafficking in drugs. According to the Ministry of the Interior, crimes related to drug trafficking had increased by 83 per cent compared with 1993, reaching a level of 53,000. Over 50 per cent of the drugs to be found in the Russian Federation had been produced outside its borders. The chief exporting countries were Ukraine, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Latvia and the States of Central Asia. The increase in crime was also due to the permeability of the borders, the population migration and the large volume of interchanges between the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States. Trafficking in illicit drugs and psychotropic substances previously unknown in Russia had increased. The interest of drug traffickers in the Russian Federation could be explained above all by its geographical location and the size of its market. It could be noted that a new international drug trafficking route was being established, flowing from South-east, South-west and South Asia to the countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States and Western Europe.

34. Improving anti-drug legislation and adapting it to international norms was one of the most important measures in the search for a solution to the problem. Draft legislation was being prepared and in 1993 President Yeltsin had approved the State anti-narcotics policy which had laid the theoretical foundation for a long-term national strategy in that area. A programme to combat drug abuse had been devised for the years 1994 to 1996.

35. Any solution at the national level would, however, be in vain without the support of the international community. The United Nations had an important role to play in coordinating the international campaign against drug abuse. In that connection, he drew attention to the work of UNDCP in devising the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, which would lead to improved coordination in the use of existing resources, avoidance of duplication, and the establishment of a firm basis for future joint activities. It was important to increase cooperation between UNDCP and other international and non-governmental organizations, and the strengthening of the relationship between UNDCP and the international financial institutions, whose assistance was indispensable, was encouraging. He welcomed the geographical expansion of the assistance provided by UNDCP. It would be useful if the latter were to increase

its cooperation with the Russian Federation; to that end, the creation of a permanent office of the Programme in Moscow and the establishment within the Programme of a special group for the Commonwealth of Independent States region.

36. Another way of strengthening international cooperation would be for more countries to become parties to the Conventions on drug abuse. The Russian Federation was a Party to those Conventions, and was prepared to encourage other countries to accede to the international drug control instruments. Non-compliance with various provisions of the Conventions, including the obligation to submit reports was a matter for concern. His Government supported the preparation of a new consolidated convention which would include all the existing multilateral agreements.

37. The Russian Federation was aware of the importance of cooperation at the regional level and was encouraging the setting up of mechanisms for collaboration with the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States. In 1992, it had signed an agreement on cooperation with the Ministers of the Interior of 13 States of the Commonwealth with a view to combating drug abuse. An office to combat organized crime was being established in Moscow, and bilateral agreements had been signed with 30 States. Finally, his Government fully supported the decisions and recommendations adopted by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its thirty-seventh session, as well as those adopted by the Economic and Social Council aimed at increasing the effectiveness of United Nations drug control activities.

38. Mr. SAHRAOUI (Algeria) said that during the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly, when two historic resolutions (resolutions 48/12 and 48/112) had been adopted, and during the coordination segment of the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council of 1994, the international community had demonstrated its determination to combat the scourge of drugs by adopting global, concerted, collective and multidisciplinary measures, both at the level of international cooperation and within the United Nations system. Moreover, the decision to update the System-wide Action Plan showed a new spirit of shared pragmatism. In that connection, the action of UNDCP, in its role not only as a system-wide coordinator, but also as the main focal point for concerted international action, would be decisive. Algeria fully supported the UNDCP initiative to establish a dialogue with the international financial institutions, particularly the World Bank and the regional development banks, to urge them to include a drug-related component in their general programming and lending policies. It also believed that the concept of the "debt-for-drugs" swap was an innovative formula which should be extended to transit countries.

39. In less than a decade, the African continent had become an important transit centre for drugs en route to major consumption areas while, at the same time, local consumption had increased considerably. Clearly, UNDCP should give greater priority to Africa, and its share of budgetary allocations should be increased accordingly. The competent Algerian authorities had noted with concern from the consignments of drugs confiscated that the transit trade consisted not only of cannabis, but also included other more powerful drugs, and that a clientele of local consumers had come into being. Faced with that

situation, the public authorities had launched a programme of action which included the area of public health and a large-scale public-awareness campaign; legislative instruments for intersectoral coordination had also been enacted. Within the framework of the legislation relating to the protection and promotion of health, multidimensional action was being carried out. A national drug and drug addiction control commission had been established and national guidelines for the control of drugs were being prepared. A youth-oriented national prevention campaign had been launched and would continue throughout the current year. At the same time, the methods, strictness and effectiveness of controls at the frontiers, ports and airports had been strengthened.

40. At the regional and international levels, Algeria had, by Legislative Decree No. 94-02 of 25 March 1994, ratified the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988, and it was participating actively in specialized coordination within the meetings of Heads of National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies (HONLEA), in Africa. In addition, a programme of cooperation with UNDCP and the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) had been set up, offering broad and ambitious prospects for the strengthening of UNDCP support for Algeria's decisive actions against drugs.

41. Mr. Biggar (Ireland), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

42. Mr. MOUBARAK (Lebanon) said that over the past few decades the use of illicit drugs had become one of the most serious social ills. Law enforcement campaigns were frequently frustrated by the ease with which new organizations and channels could be established; they were well organized internationally and had the financial means and the technology to promote their illicit activities and transactions and to carry out money-laundering. The United Nations had played a crucial role in the development of a global strategy to combat the growing menace, and had devised various programmes to help affected countries to deal with that grave problem.

43. The difficult living conditions of Lebanese farmers and the disruption of production and export activities during the war had led many of them to cultivate illicit crops. Once its authority had been re-established, the Government, aware of the magnitude of the threat, had undertaken a firm campaign against illicit drugs in all their aspects. Over the past three years, all fields of illicit crops in the Bekaa Valley had been eradicated, and his Government could now state with pride that Lebanon was free of such plants. The Drug Control Division of the Judiciary Police had been strengthened and all sea terminals that had been used for drug smuggling had been destroyed.

44. With the help of UNDCP, the Lebanese Government was pursuing a crop substitution policy to assist some 500,000 Lebanese nationals living in 240 villages in the Bekaa region. In 1993, in cooperation with UNDP and UNDCP, a new alternative development project had been launched in the Baalbek Hermel district to sustain the Government's eradication efforts; the programme was based on the cultivation of licit crops, the improvement of irrigation schemes and the upgrading of health, educational and social services.

45. His delegation had studied the Secretary-General's reports (A/49/345 and A/49/388) and welcomed the opening of the UNDCP field office in Beirut. It was also grateful for the valuable contribution of UNDCP to the implementation of various projects and programmes, and for its assistance to the Lebanese Government in developing an institutional drug control framework and in providing legal advice for the revision of national legislation in that area. The concept of global interdependence encouraged the international community to continue the struggle against drugs and to adopt firm policies aimed at total narcotics control. However, given the critical situation in which the war had left the infrastructure of basic services, Lebanon needed external aid if it was to succeed in that endeavour and maintain tangible results. He sincerely hoped that aid would be increased and that more contributions would follow.

46. Mr. SREENIVASAN (India) noted that India's geographical location between two of the world's largest drug-producing regions had made it a transit country, and underlined that the problem of transit countries needed to be addressed as part of the global programme to control drugs. India was actively cooperating with the drug control activities of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation, and as a member of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, it fully subscribed to the views expressed on the subject at the 1994 Non-Aligned Foreign Ministers' Meeting in New York. Moreover, he reaffirmed India's commitment to combat production, trafficking and consumption of narcotics and psychotropic substances unilaterally, bilaterally and multilaterally, and to implement the measures recommended in resolution 48/12. India fully subscribed to the idea of regional cooperation. In that context, it welcomed UNDCP's latest initiative for a joint India-Pakistan-UNDCP programme and was open to the idea of extending the programme to other neighbouring countries.

47. India was one of the few countries with a licit production of opium, but supported the view of the International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) that Governments were obliged to restrict global production of opiate raw materials to match actual needs. Moreover, it welcomed the affirmation of major importers of opium raw material to continue to accord priority to importing raw materials from traditional suppliers. India agreed with INCB on the need for adequate national legislation to control the manufacture and use of precursors, and had adopted various means for monitoring the cultivation of the opium poppy and preventing its diversion to illicit uses.

48. His delegation commended the activities of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and UNDCP to check money-laundering. It called on those bodies to encourage measures against the diversion of arms and explosives through illicit traffic by land or sea. He drew attention to the pertinent paragraphs of the Rio de Janeiro Declaration of 10 September 1994, and of the Communiqué of the Group of Seven Summit held at Naples.

49. With regard to crime prevention, India particularly supported UNDCP's practical measures to create an exhaustive database covering all aspects of drug-related activities, and to improve methods of extradition and judicial cooperation. It was of particular significance that UNDCP and the Crime

Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch had taken concrete steps to promote coordination of their activities.

50. In India, and perhaps in other Asian countries, the role of non-governmental organizations had been as important as in Western countries, and a study of the activities of non-governmental organizations in developing societies would greatly assist UNDCP. The cooperation of such organizations was essential for demand reduction. In the area of development activities, all cooperative activities had to give absolute priority to economic development. Cooperation with international financial institutions would be an important contributing factor in the improvement of inter-agency coordination for the control of money-laundering. The development priorities of Governments would have to be central to all development activities.

51. Mr. Cissé (Senegal) resumed the Chair.

52. Ms. FERTEKLIGIL (Turkey) said that the global spread of the drug problem more than ever called for the unswerving commitment of the international community to combat it in the most effective way, and that only the implementation of vigorous and clearly defined strategic methods could stop it. For that reason, Turkey was convinced of the wisdom of a global, multidisciplinary and balanced approach, and of the indispensability of taking all aspects of the problem into consideration, including supply, demand, and illicit trafficking as well as the reintegration of drug addicts into society.

53. Her delegation supported the results obtained by the Commission on Narcotic Drugs during its thirty-seventh session. Faithful to its firm opposition in principle to the proliferation of opiates, Turkey attached importance to the resolution on the demand for and supply of such products for medical and scientific needs. Moreover, it considered that the discussion of international cooperation in that area during the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council would permit the formulation of observations and suggestions that would contribute to the analysis of the drug problem. It welcomed the progress made in the areas of precursors and measures to combat money-laundering, and considered that the establishment of a group of experts to prepare proposals for the implementation of resolution 48/12 and of the Working Group on maritime cooperation constituted constructive initiatives in the campaign against narcotic drugs. Collaboration and the exchange of experience and information were important for the conduct of preventive activities and for the detection and suppression of crimes related to the traffic in drugs, a topic that could not be ignored in view of the increasing economic and political power of the drug cartels.

54. The situation called for improved coordination between UNDCP and the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch, and it therefore seemed appropriate to examine the appropriateness of converting the Branch into a department. Moreover, it would be useful to take advantage of the conclusions of the International Conference on Laundering and Controlling Proceeds of Crime held at Courmayeur in June, and of the World Ministerial Conference on Organized Transnational Crime held at Naples.

55. The structure of society and the quality of education were important factors in combating drugs effectively. Heightening public awareness through the use of audiovisual media, and information and education campaigns aimed at all vulnerable groups, were especially important; no less so were the treatment, rehabilitation and reintegration of addicts. For that reason, the Turkish Ministry of Public Health had participated directly in the formulation of anti-drug policies. Moreover, research initiatives against drugs were being supported in Turkey, and the contributions of regional forums to the analysis of the drug problem were being taken into account.

56. The efficient functioning of the international system for controlling narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances required the broadest possible accession by producing and exporting countries to the judicial instruments in force. It was the responsibility of Governments to ensure the full implementation of the prevention and control measures adopted for the purpose of attaining the goals proposed.

57. Because of its geographic location on the Balkan route, Turkey had been obliged to redouble its monitoring of the illicit traffic, for which purpose it was mobilizing considerable human and material resources. In that regard, Turkey supported the catalytic and guiding role of UNDCP and its multi-dimensional strategy, which had demonstrated their effectiveness in combating illicit drug production, traffic and use. The importance of the collaboration of UNDCP, the Customs Cooperation Council and INTERPOL in the results Turkey had achieved must also be stressed. UNDCP required more resources in order to be able to make maximum use of its capabilities in regional programmes. Moreover, the system-wide Action Plan was not just a document, but an effective framework for action, and efforts to improve the system's policies of programme planning and coordination, which must in turn be strengthened through national programmes, must be supported. In conclusion, she reiterated Turkey's firm commitment and resolve to fight tirelessly against the scourge of drugs and to participate actively in the efforts to achieve its eradication.

58. Mr. AL-DOSARI (Bahrain) reaffirmed the fundamental role of UNDCP in drug control and praised the measures adopted by the United Nations system, referred to in documents A/49/317, A/49/345 and A/49/369. Increased international cooperation should be based on the principles of sovereignty and non-interference embodied in the Charter and in international law. Economic, social and cultural factors should also be taken into account when considering international cooperation measures, especially with regard to money-laundering and the illicit use of narcotic drugs. Although the problem was not considered to be a social phenomenon in Bahrain, the Government was convinced of the importance of the international instruments, which was why it had instituted legislative measures for controlling drugs, punishing illicit drug traffickers and rehabilitating drug addicts. It also fostered the rule of the media in organizing prevention campaigns in schools and youth associations and in pointing out the negative effects of drug abuse on health, morals and socio-economic development.

59. International cooperation was essential to implement the System-wide Action Plan on Drug Abuse Control, and the necessary coordination mechanisms should be strengthened. The database to be created as part of the Action Plan should serve the developing countries as a model for exchanging information at the regional and national levels using the most advanced technologies. His Government believed that dialogue should be initiated between UNDCP and the regional organizations on establishing a regional system for drug control, with special emphasis on money-laundering and the extradition of offenders. It also supported the involvement of other organizations in studying the socio-economic consequences of drug abuse and hoped that the World Summit for Social Development would draw up an action plan in that area.

60. Mr. HEGYI (Hungary) said that his country was party to the 1961 and 1971 Conventions and would soon ratify the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988. The seriousness of the world drug situation made international cooperation and coordination imperative, and UNDCP therefore deserved all necessary support from the United Nations system. Its three-year action plan on the issue of money-laundering, which included advisory services for implementing effective controls, was extremely useful for States confronted with that phenomenon. The special relationship that UNDCP had developed with the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch of the Secretariat was also important, and Hungary had co-sponsored the Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolution on that subject. It also supported the resolutions of the Commission and the Economic and Social Council relating the need to strengthen strategies for comprehensive, integrated programmes on the prevention, reduction and elimination of illicit demand, with particular emphasis on treatment, rehabilitation and information and educational campaigns. Drug abuse was a major factor in the spread of HIV and AIDS, as reflected in the relevant resolution of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

61. Hungary was affected by an emerging problem in the region: advocacy of the legalization of "soft" drugs. It was necessary to refute the underlying misconception by disseminating information on how soft-drug users generally became addicts. Only by implementing a comprehensive, multidisciplinary strategy at every level of society would it be possible to achieve success in the world-wide fight against drug abuse. Supply and demand reduction measures should be instituted at the international, regional, national and local levels.

62. In 1991 the Hungarian Government had created an interministerial drug committee responsible, inter alia, for draft legislation, professional guidelines, strategic planning, national training plans and evaluation of activities in the areas of money-laundering, treatment as an alternative to prison and treatment in prison. Because of the war in the former Yugoslavia, the main route for illicit drug trafficking in the Balkans had shifted to his country. The quantity of illicit narcotic drugs intercepted by the authorities in the first half of 1994 equalled the total for all of 1993. His Government had established the institutional arrangements necessary to deal with the problem. A crime prevention network had been set up at the national and country levels, and the public health service had professionals dealing with the different aspects of the problem. There were 130 health education institutions

disseminating information and 70 secondary schools with classes on the dangers of drug abuse.

63. In addition to innovative methods, the support of UNDCP and other multisectoral international organizations such as the Pompidou Group was also important. With more than two decades of experience as a member of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, Hungary was fully aware of the importance of well-balanced supply and demand reduction policies and the need for innovative approaches and adequate funding in the field of prevention, and it would continue to give its full support to the role of UNDCP as coordinator of the world-wide action against drug abuse.

64. Mr. SAKONHNINHOM (Lao People's Democratic Republic) said that the problem of drug abuse and illicit trafficking, described by the General Assembly as a crime against humanity, had in recent years taken on alarming proportions, and constituted a serious threat to international security. While consumer and producer countries had a responsibility to take honest and effective joint measures, he agreed with the representative who had spoken on behalf of the European Union that even the most Draconian measures against illicit production and trafficking were insufficient in themselves. Priority must be given to reducing demand, and it therefore welcomed the relevant decision of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

65. Action against drug abuse and illicit trafficking should be taken in strict conformity with the principles of the Charter and international law, including in particular respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States and abstention from the threat or use of force in international relations. His Government was aware of the serious potential consequences of the drug problem, and cooperated closely with various friendly countries and international organizations in order to contribute to world efforts to eradicate that problem. In 1990 it had established, directly under the office of the Prime Minister, a national drug control commission whose primary task was to coordinate all drug-related activities, initiate programmes, monitor project implementation and gather information on drug production, trafficking and abuse. In order to reduce opium production, the Government had carried out an energetic campaign to encourage ethnic minorities gradually to replace opium poppies with other equally profitable crops. In recent years, with the technical and financial assistance of UNDCP, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and friendly countries, it had implemented integrated rural development projects whose primary purpose was to offer opium producers economically, socially and environmentally viable alternatives. In 1994, with the assistance of UNDCP, it had drawn up a comprehensive programme for drug control to the year 2000. The programme would cost $35 million, and included 16 projects for improving drug regulation and control, gradually reducing supply by eradicating opium poppy cultivation, establishing a special investigation unit and promoting treatment and rehabilitation activities.

66. In combating drug abuse, the Government attached great importance to suppression. Since 1992, 180 persons, among them 4 aliens, had been detained and prosecuted for possession of cannabis, heroin and opium. The memorandum of

understanding which the Lao People's Democratic Republic had signed with China, Thailand, Myanmar and UNDCP demonstrated the Government's firm resolve to establish and consolidate regional cooperation in the fight against drugs.

67. Ms. ARYSTANBEKOVA (Kazakhstan) said that no country could tackle single-handed the task of halting the rise in drug-related activities. For that reason, the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States had concluded multilateral treaties to combat drug trafficking and agreements on legal assistance in criminal matters; moreover, their judicial bodies were carrying out joint operations in the fight against drug cartels. Kazakhstan shared the Secretary-General's view that the international strategy for drug control should be pursued at three levels - the national, subregional or regional and international levels. International cooperation was needed to ensure that each country established its own flexible coordination mechanism. Kazakhstan had been addressing that task with the assistance of UNDCP ever since the first visit by the Programme's Executive Director in May 1994. On his second visit, in September, the preparation of a draft programme for multilateral technical assistance to Kazakhstan for drug control had been discussed. During that visit, special emphasis had been placed on national legislation and the establishment of an inter-agency coordinating mechanism, and broader contacts had been established between the country's judicial bodies and their counterparts in the countries of Central and South-East Asia. Great importance had also been attached to seeking a reliable mechanism for controlling drugs used for medical and scientific purposes, to the need to provide training and retraining for specialists in the bodies concerned, to the introduction of a computerized system for collecting and storing data on drug offenders and drug-related offences, and to the strengthening of the technical and material infrastructure of judicial institutions.

68. Earlier in November 1994 a regional seminar on juridical matters had been held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, attended by representatives of UNDCP, donor countries and the countries of Central Asia, for the basic purpose of setting up State bodies for the coordination of drug control in those countries and drafting legislation geared to current needs. The adoption of appropriate measures would help strengthen and broaden cooperation between the countries of the region and UNDCP in combating the illicit production and sale of, demand for, traffic in and distribution of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances. In that context, her delegation thanked the UNDCP executive personnel for the effective assistance provided and expressed Kazakhstan's willingness to continue its cooperation with the Programme.

69. Mr. MAMDOUHI (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that his country, as a party to the 1961 and 1988 Conventions, was committed to combating narcotic drugs and giving priority to drug control at the national, regional and international levels. South-West Asia had been affected by new problems such as the rise in illicit trafficking, the spread of the illicit cultivation of narcotic plants, the emergence of new trafficking activities and transit routes in the Central Asian Republics, and the enhanced capability of drug-trafficking organizations, which had at their command substantial financial resources, arms and sophisticated communications.

70. The anti-drug policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran was targeted on the eradication of illicit poppy cultivation in the region and combating illicit drug trafficking. The eradication of illicit cultivation should be offset by the introduction of substitute crops and follow-up support. The Islamic Republic of Iran had succeeded in eradicating the production and cultivation of the opium poppy through vigorous measures by the security forces; however, on account of its geographical position, the territory was used by opium, heroin and morphine traffickers as a transit route from the countries of the East to Europe. In 1993, seizures of narcotic drugs and the arrest and prosecution of a large number of persons for drug-related offences had increased because of the strong detection capability and the personnel specially trained to control the long eastern borders. Despite its involvement in national reconstruction, the Islamic Republic of Iran had not failed to invest substantial human and financial resources in the fight against illicit drug trafficking through development projects along the eastern borders, such as the construction of over 1,350 kilometres of road, the establishment of 70 sentry and 140 observation posts to monitor the illicit influx of drugs, and the blocking of passes on the border. The implementation of those projects, which, inter alia, prevented drug smuggling to Europe, had cost over $1,500 million. The Islamic Republic of Iran was also involved in military operations along the eastern borders against caravans and drug smugglers equipped with the latest military hardware.

71. The country's steadfast anti-drug policy, in terms of both judicial and security measures, directed towards preventing the transit of drugs through the territory of the Islamic Republic of Iran would benefit the countries of Europe and those situated along the drug transit route. For those reasons, the international community, especially UNDCP, should adequately address the problem of the eradication and substitution of poppy cultivation in South-West Asia. In 1993, UNDCP, now a focal point for drug-control efforts, had established a regional office for South-West Asia covering the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and Afghanistan; that was an important development for the region, since the office provided support for national drug-control measures and monitoring activities funded by UNDCP. That same year, the office had drafted a document signed by the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and UNDCP as an initial step towards strengthening cross-border drug-law-enforcement capacities. The initiative represented a model cost-sharing arrangement and provided for the sharing of experience in prevention and treatment, the halting of trafficking through increased monitoring, the assessment of illicit crop cultivation and the reduction of illicit cultivation and demand. The Islamic Republic of Iran believed that UNDCP should make greater efforts to bring illicit drug production and poppy cultivation under control, and renewed its commitment to participate in all activities for regional and international cooperation.

72. Mr. de FONDAUMIERE (Deputy Executive Director of UNDCP) said that UNDCP was gratified to note the support for the initiatives taken, especially the subregional focus, the balanced approach to the reduction in supply and demand and the closer cooperation between the Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Branch and UNDCP. As the Commission on Narcotic Drugs and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice had requested, the Executive Director would submit a report to the two Commissions on the status of cooperation

between UNDCP and the Branch. With regard to the Executive Director's appeal for more funds for the Programme, it was to be hoped that the support expressed by representatives would result in larger contributions.

73. With regard to the statement by the Observer for Switzerland, the International Narcotics Control Board thanked the Government of Switzerland for confirming that the project for using heroin for medical treatment would not be a step towards legalizing the non-medicinal use of drugs subject to control. Pursuant to the Convention, the Board had agreed only to the quantity of narcotic drugs requested by the Government of Switzerland for a scientific project covering the use of heroin for 250 drug addicts for a period of three years. It had not expressed its opinion on the merits of the project. It wished, however, to express its grave concern, particularly concerning any extension of the project before a thorough, exhaustive assessment had been carried out.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.